Frequent Divorce in New England. Prom the American Quarterly Church Review for July. No thoughtful man can behold, without solicitude, the low grade of domestic morals which seem to prevail to a large extent in our New England families. The general decay of public sentiment in respect to family religion, the practical neglect of the Holy Scriptures, the infrequency of family prayer, the reluc-tance of parents to make their children obey, the transfer of responsibility for the manners and morals of children from parents to publicschool teachers, the common rudeness and arrogance of boys and girls, the great prevalence of untruth amongst the young, the license and familiarity of intercourse which is allowed between the youth of different sexes, the murder of living but unborn children, the number of illegitimate births-all these are sufficient to fill one with consternation and dismay. To all these signs of demoralization there is to be added one, which is closely connected with them, which fosters them, and is fostered by them in turn. We refer to the very great and alarming frequency of divorce. This has grown to be a portentous evil. It is certainly one of the most significant signs of the real condition of our domestic life. It is communicating a sad coloring to the whole inner life of the people. It is working its way from the lower strata of society upwards, and exerting a decided influence in the control of public opinion. Its progress is increasing, and at the present rate, a time seems to be rapidly approaching when the public sentiment on this point shall be almost wholly debauched. Lest we should seem to be only an alarmist in this matter, we will state some facts which will fairly illustrate the progress of this social vice amongst us during the last five years. Not to be too tedious, we select our principal facts from the statistics of the State of Vermont, as furnished by its indefatigable Secretary. We select Vermont as being by geographical posi-tion the most secluded of the New England States, the least affected by foreign immigration, and by marriages of mixed nationalities, and probably, with New Hampshire, the most tenacious in maintaining the traditions and social morals of the early settlers. Verment is divided into fourteen counties, and for the last five years the population has not materially changed. We find, therefore, that for the last five years the divorces are as nearly as possible distributed as follows amongst the counties:- In Addison county to every 1000 persons the number of divorces is 1.1, and in Essex county, .8. the great honor, or rather less shame, of these counties, this is the smallest proportion to be found in any portion of the State. In five counties, Chittenden, Franklin, Windham, Orange, and Caledonia, the divorces vary in number from 1.5 to 1.7 to each 1000 people. In Orleans and Rutland counties, they are 2 to each 1000 people. In Bennington, Lamoille, Grand Isle, Washington, and Windsor counties, they number from 2 3 to 2 4 to each 1000. For the year 1862 there were granted 91 divorces; for 1863, 105; for 1864, 101; for 1865, 141; for 1866, 155; a sufficiently rapid increase one would think, to alarm the most phlegmatic mind; a steady increase from 91, in 1862, to 155, in 1866; the fifth year alone showing an increase of 70 per cent. beyond the first year. From another point of view, however, it comes still more closely home. Observe that these divorces have been increasing, while the population of the State has remained stationary. The whole number of libels granted in the last five years amounts to 593. We have then 593 divorces to 315,098 people, or one divorce to every 532 persons. Here, again, if we deduct 50 per cent. for the children and youth under eighteen, we have one divorce to every 266 marriageable persons. And as there are two parties to every divorce, there are two out of every 266 marriageable persons, or one man in every 133 men, and one woman in every 133 women, personally concerned in this matter. But perhaps a more startling view is derived from a comparison between the last five years of divorces, and the last five years of marriages. There have been, as we have said, in five years 593 divorces. There is also an aggregate of 11,325 marriages reported during the same time, which, however, it would be fair to state at 11,400, so as to cover the number of marriages not reported through accident or carelessness. Compare then 593 divorces with 11,400 marriages, and we have this result of 1 divorce to every 19 marriages. Or, in other words, to every 38 persons married during the last five years, two are concerned in a divorce. We might add, that at this rate there is a certain degree of probability that during the next five years, two at least, out of every 38 persons entering into the married estate, will be divorced. If the annual increase of divorces goes on unchecked, the proportion will be still larger. Finally, the prospect is very dark from another point of view. The last recorded year of marriages gives us the number of 2983 (call it 3000, to compensate for possible errors). This is the highest number of marriages in this State in any one year. Now compare this with the number of divorces, 155, for the same year. It will be found that whereas, five years since there was less than 1 divorce to every 22 marriages, the latest yearly record assures ns of 1 divorce to every 19 marriages. It affords but sorry comfort to reflect that Vermont is not alone in the melancholy retrograde march of domestic morals in New England. In the State of Massachusetts, things are not quite so bad, but bad enough, there being during the last five years 1 divorce to 44 marriages, and during the last recorded year 1 to 37 marriages. The State of Connecticut shows a record worse than Vermont. There, the aggregate of five years of divorces to five years of marriages is as 1 to 11, and during the last year as 1 to 10. Neither the States of Maine, Rhode Island, or New Hampshire have collected full statistics. From the observations we have made, however, and from the information we have received, we have no reason to suppose that either State can give at the best, so good a record as Massachusetts. The estimated number of divorces in the State of Maine for the last five years is 950, which, in proportion to the population, gives one divorce to every 330 men and women above eighteen years of age, placing Maine upon a very little better standing than Vermont. So far then as numbers and calculations can approximate to the exact truth, the prospect is dismal. We well remember the astonishment and dismay expressed by two persons who had been obliged to leave the northern part of Virginia at the close of the war. When they learned the custom amongst us in regard to divorces, they both declared, that, in all their experience in that part of Virginia where they lived together for many years, and where one was born, they heard of but three instances of divorce, and then it was invariably at the cost of the reputation of the offending party; and here (said they) it seems to be considered only a trifle, and to be almost as freely contemplated and resorted to as marriage. Now what is the law and the practice in New England? Here again we take for illustration the law of the State of Vermont, which is almost identical with that of the other five States, unless it be Massachusetts. After stating that on account of consanguinity, or insufficient age, or the idiocy or lunacy of one of the parties, or force or fraud used to

obtain consent, or of impotency, marriages in certain cases may be declared void from the beginning; the law goes on to mention these other causes for which the Supreme Court of the county in which one or both of the parties reside, may grant a divorce, namely:-1. Adultery in either party. 2. The sentence of either party to confinement in the State Prison for three years or longer. 3. Intolerable severity by either of the parties. 4. Wilfal desertion for three consecutive years. 5. Seven years' unexplained and silent absence. 6. Neglect of the husband to support his wife, he having sufficient pecuniary ability. All libels based upon either of these conditions, and proved, must be granted by the Court. And finally, section forty-two thus declares:—"Whenever a marriage shall be dissolved, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the parties shall be deemed single and may lawfully marry again." Here, then, the law ignores all distinction between separation a mensa for the protection of suffering subjects of the State, on the one hand, and divorce a vinculo, on the other hand. The latter is the only mode of separation recognized in these statutes as lawful; and in this State, and all the New England States excepting Massachusetts, it is employed in all cases without distinction. Thus, while 184 bills of divorce have been granted in Vermont for the last five years for the cause of adultary, 409 bills, giving exactly the same freedom as to marriage, have been granted for various other causes: as for wilful desertion 238, intolerable severity (exercised in some cases by the wife) 117, refusal to support 11, and for causes not mentioned 43. The law of Vermont allows the parties to all these 409 bills, which are granted for some other cause than adultery, to marry again, as if there were no existing divinely-appointed relations between them. This estate of marriage is treated by the laws of Vermont and other New England States as it were never in anywise under the control of Christ's law; as if its sanctity were a myth; as if it were the sole creation and ordinance of the State, and to be dealt with and rent asunder as a simple affair of proletarian conveniance and policy; as if its solemn contract was hardly so coercive as that which one might make with his wood-sawyer; as if all its vows, spoken and implied, were binding only so long as the caprice and humor of the parties agreed, and then, to be put away with a slight formality, and a new contract with another entered into, as one would east off old garments, present them to a needy friend, and reclothe himself in new apparel. Upon this ground, therefore, we declare the law prevailing in New England as to divorces, and the practice under the law, to be treacherous to family union, contrary to Christian morals, a snare to the thoughtless and ignorant, an opportunity to the depraved, an offense and sin against the Divine law, and, in short, a method of legalized polygamy. We cannot attempt to dwell upon all the painful thoughts to which this view of the subject gives rise. The immorality threatens a beautiful and favored portion of our common country with a cloud of moral evil, scandal, domestic strife, and debauchery. Families become unsettled The relation of husband and wife assumes the form of a bare partnership in business. Children lose their just inheritance of baptism, of home ties, of family name, and family honor. The registration reports may record that the number of illegitimate children in this State average less than in England, but their numbers would be fearfully increased should we apply the same laws here as there in respect to matrimony and divorce. Legalized divorce is not known in England as it is here. There is but one cause acknowledged there which can dissolve the marriage tie. Our philanthropistsand our demagogues may inveigh against Mormonism, or they may hold up to execration that repulsive feature of the old Southern slavery which held as nothing the matrimonial bonds between the slaves; but here, in this free State, the very same thing is done by freemen, and is legalized by the law of the State, and we suppose there are men to be found who glory in it, and view it as a sign of progress. One of our clergy, who was for several years chaplain to a New England State Prison, came to suspect that men might easily be victims of a conspiracy to thrust them into the State Prison for three years or more, that their wives

might marry a preferred suitor. The dissolv-

ing of home ties amongst the people is some-

times most bewildering. We lately heard of

an instance of divorce, in which one of two

daughters, after the father and mother sepa-

rated, went to live with her mother's mother.

There she took her grandmother's surname.

Her mother afterwards married, and this

daughter then went to live with her, and took

the name of her mother's second husband, by

which name she now desires to be known, but

of course she is known by all the three names.

In the meantime her sister went to live with

her father, who also married again, and she is

known by her father's name. How can chil-

dren under such circumstances retain any re-

verence for home or domestic ties, or learn to

value them except upon merely mercenary

grounds? The fact is, that although public

sentiment revolts at the simultaneous poly-

gamy of the Mormons, yet, in New England

the course of things appears to be tend-

ing towards that which moralists and

jurists call successive polygamy. Can we re-

gard such things with patience? Ought they

to be allowed to poison our domestic and social

life? Is not the law and practice under it

viewed by the light of the Christian law, im-

moral and corrupt? We pass to the third

point, the causes of this extraordinary fre-

quency of divorce. These are not difficult to

describe. First, and before all, the cause

and provocation to many divorces is the very

facility with which they are obtained. It is

so easy on account of weariness, incompati-

bility of temper, longings for forbidden plea-

pricious likes and dislikes, to obtain a legal

divorce, that it is obtained. That license

which would hardly be thought of, if abso-

lutely prohibited, is readily seized, when

ear, and assured to possession by compliance

only with a slight formality. Haman nature

cannot resist this temptation. The facility

with which divorces are granted, and the so-

called freedom which it offers to marry again,

present a most attractive bait to young,

thoughtless, shallow, vain, or designing per-

sons. There is really nothing to hinder a fre-

quent change of husbands or wives, as the

case may be. Those who enter into the mar-

ried estate are always conscious that they

need not bear the yoke longer than they wish

to. It can be thrown off by a slight artifice,

either by mutual agreement, or at the will of

one of them. Each divorce sows the seeds for others. It is the town talk. The newspapers

give the often disgusting particulars, with an

unholy relish. The men give the details of it

in the tavern, over the counter, and at the noonday rest. The women gossip over it,

month after month, at their calls, tea-drinkings, or sociables. The children hear it discussed freely by their elders

at the daily meals, with comments and

details often that they should not hear. They

all, men, women, and children, see that it is a

legal act, frequently occurring, recognized by the Statute Law, and accepted by the people.

They see the actors in it, and their children,

living in the same reputation as heretofore,

thrust into the hand, pressed

the mind, proclaimed to the

sures, unsatisfied vanity, covetonsness,

upon

and they hear them extenuating and justifying their course. They see the Supreme Court of the county, which they have been trained to regard as the very impersonation of justice and dignity, sanctioning the dissolution of the marriage tie. They see Justices of the Peace. perhaps, sometimes, Ministers of the Gospel, uniting these divorced persons again with others in holy matrimony. And what is the result? What can it be, other than the general corruption of the public conscience, and contemptuous disregard for the appeals of the few remaining fastidious, reverent, and religious citizens. One part of the remedy must be for the

clergy and laity both to educate the public mind and conscience as to the solemnity, religiousness and indissolubility of marriage, and to endeavor to reform it. Another reme dial means, which we may hope is generally practised by our clergy, must be to ascertain the facts when parties apply for marriage, and to decline to join in holy matrimony either of two divorced parties, both being alive, except it be the innocent party to a divorce, granted Again, only upon the ground of adultery. the statute law of every State should, so far as practicable, solemnize and dignify the estate of marriage, by preventing all hasty, secret, illegal, and irresponsible marriages. In the State of Vermont, as the law now stands, since abolishing the publication of the bans, it regulates only the age and degree of relationship of the parties, it forbids polygamy, it names the authorized ministers and pro-vides a form of certificate of marriage when consummated. Besides this, there is absolutely no law in Vermont on the subject. Men and women, known and unknown, publicly and privately, at any hour of the day or night, without signature, without witnesses, without identification, clandestinely or otherwise, upon the bare impulse of the moment, or by deliberate plotting, are allowed to follow out any device or desire which their own prudence, passion, folly, or cunning may dictate. The law gives no attention or respect to the subject which tends to dignify and vindicate the true honor or marriage. It affords the officiating minister no protection against deceit or fraud. It does nothing to identify the parties for the sake of peace and good order of the community. It gives the friends of the innocent and unsuspecting no opportunity to detect and expose profligate designs. Is does nothing to secure the family circle from possible invasion. It simply ignores, as far as possible, the whole subject. In these sentiments, we doubt not, our readers most heartily concur. Should not then the statute law of every State establish "precautions and protective for-malities" by which the partles to a marriage shall be distinctly identified as citizens in their respective communities; by which their intention of marriage shall be duly signed in the presence of competent residents, and registered by the proper officer; by which a definite interval of time may be allowed after the registration, witnesses required to be present at the marriage, and a certificate or license furnished for the assurance of the officiating Minister of Justice, perhaps to be countersigned by him, and returned to the office of the Town Clerk? These simple requirements will procure greater respect for the union thus solemnized. They will put no bar to the marriage of any honest citizen, whatever be his rank or station; they will protect the community to some extent against the misfortune of ill-judged, hasty, clandestine, and perhaps criminal unions; and by thus elevating the views of the people as to marrisge, they will contribute, it is hoped and believed, to lessen the number of divorces. And finally, efforts shall be made, all good men united, and the public sentiment aroused where practicable, to procure such change in the law as shall prohibit the dissolution of the marriage bond except only in case of the adultery of one of the parties; increasing also, if need be, the pains and penalties incurred by adultery; and in special cases of hardship authorizing separation, if necessary be, a mensa et thoro; leaving the way open to future reconciliation of the parties, but absolutely refusing permission to marry again while both the parties live, and treating all such marriages

One Year of the New Dominion.

From the Montreal Witness, July 3 5 Our Dominion is now a year old. How does it work? In Canada we have appointed for it a day of rejoicing. But has our rejoicing been the bounding pulse of national life, or simply the comfort of being off work on a hot Every one can now judge for himself whether the feelings drawn forth by such an occasion are closely akin or not to those manifested by our neighbors on the 4th of this month, or by ourselves on the Queen's birthday. Young Canada, at least, should feel this consciousness of national life, if there were anything to draw it forth; but, wanting this, the sentiment seems to be but shallow. Most people seem to look upon it as a matter chiefly interesting to the political schemers with whom it originated. Very different is the state of affairs in Nova Scotia. There they grind their teeth involuntarily whenever the word confederation is mentioned. The state of feeling is described by well-informed people there as being too deep for utterance; and, as it takes the form of a wide-spread and deep-seated movement toward annexation, it is not to be wondered that public expressions should be much more guarded than private ones. That a storm is brewing there seems very likely to be an established fact before next Dominion Day. The desire of Great Britain to preserve the loyalty of her colonial subjects, and the integrity of her empire, whatever it may amount to, appears to have been of late smothered among what were to Englishmen weightier matters, and theadvocate for a betrayed Province could be found but in Mr. Bright, an acknowledged revolutionist, who, it is possible, would object very little to the annexation of all the Provinces to the United States. It is to be hoped that wisdom, if not justice, will prevail among our own legislators, and that, instead of denying the most patent facts, they will set themselves to conciliate by liberal measures the affections of their fellow-citizens so grievously outraged, and save their pet scheme, and us as a people, from irretrievable ruin.

-The lobster factory at Englishman's River, Maine, is putting up about 3000 lobsters a day. It has taken in over 90,000 already. About three tons of the refuse are thrown out from the factory each day, which the farmers are using to enrich their farms.

# LEGAL NOTICES.

THE DISTRICT COURT OF IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

IN BANK BUPTCY.

The undersigned hereby gives notice of his appointment as assignee of EVAN DALRY MPLE, of the cly of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, within said District, who has been arjudged a bankrupt upon his own petition, by the District Court of said District.

JUHN ROBERTS, Assignee,

No. 128 8, 81X PH Street.

Dated at Philadelphia, June 24, 1868. [6 27stuthaw]

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON THE having been granted to the undersigned, all persons in debt to the said Estate are requested to make payment, and those having c'alms against the same to present them without delay to NATHAN S. BEEK-LEY, Executor, No 40, N. WATER Street [110]

### SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, May 18, 1868.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS,-In pursuance of resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors at a stated meeting held this day, notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of this Company, that they will have the privilege of subscribing, either directly or by substitution under such rules as may be prescribed therefor, for Twenty-five Per Cent, of additional Stock at Par, in proportion to their respective interests as they stand registered on the books of the Company, May 20, 1868,

Holders of less than four Shares will be entitled to ubscribe for a full share, and those holding more Shares than a multiple of four Shares will be entitled to an additional Share.

Subscriptions to the new Stock will be received on and after May 30, 1868, and the privilege of subscribing will cease on the 20th day of July, 1868.

The instalments on account of the new Shares shall e paid in cash, as follows:-

1st. Twenty-five Per Cent. at the time of subscription, on or before the 30th day of July, 1868,

2d. Twenty-five Per Cent, on or before the 15th day of December, 1888.

3d. Twenty-five Per Cent. on or before the 15th day 4th. Twenty-five Per Cent, on or before the 15th day of December, 1869, or if Stockholders should prefer

the whole amount may be paid up at once, or any remaining instalments may be paid up in full at the time of the payment of the second or third instalment, and each instalment paid up, shall be entitled to a pro rata dividend that may be declared on full THOMAS M. FIRTH,

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILBOAD COMPANY, Office No. 227 S. FOURTH Screet. PHILADELPHIA, May 27, 1868. NOTICE-To the holders of bonds of the PHILA-DELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COM-PANY due April 1, 1870.

The Company offer to exchange any of these bonds, of \$1000 each, at any time before the (lat) first day of October next at par for a new mortgage bond of equal amount bearing seven per cent, interest, clear of United States and State taxes, having twenty-five years to run.

The bonds not surrendered on or before the lat of October next will be paid at maturity, in accordance S. BRADFORD, Treasurer, with their tenor.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RALLEGAD COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, June 25, 1868.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

The Transfer Books of this Company will be closed on TUESDAY, June 30, and be reopened on THURSDAY, July 16, 1868.

A dividend of FIVE PER CENT, has been declared on the Preferred and Common Stock, clear of national and State taxes; payable on Common Stock on and after JULY 15 to the holders thereof, as they shall stand registered on the books of the Company on the 30 h instant. All payable at this office. h instant, All payab e at this office, S. BRADFORD, Tressurer.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS a stock vote of the MER-CANTILE LIBRARY COMPANY will be taken on the forowing proposed am adment to the Charter:—

Section 5 The Board of Directors shall have full power to make and alter such Rules and By ia vs as they may deem necessary for the well-being and cue management of the affairs of the Company: Provided, such By laws are not repugnant to nor faconsistent with this Charter, or with the Constitution and laws of this Sia e or of the United States.

The polls will be opened in the LIBRARY, on MONDAY, July 6, and cosed SATURDAY, July II. The hours for voting will be, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M., and on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 4 to 9 P. M. The vote will be by ballot each share of stock belog entitled to one vote, which must be presented in persun.

JOHN LARDNER Recording Secretary.

Philadelphia. July 1, 1888. Recording Secretary. 7235.

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### GOVERNMENT SALES.

OFFICE ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER UNITED STATES ARMY, No. 1180 GIBARD

bireet. PHILADELPHIA, July 3, 1868.

Will be sold at public auction on ba fur Day, the Jith Instant, at 11 o'clock, a M. o.t the premises lately occupied by the Army Mesical Department, situate on the west side of Sixth streat above Oxiord,

In this city, all the fences, sheds, and materials erected thereon by the United States.

The above-named materials will be sold in one lot, and the purchaser will be allowed until the 3ist to remove the same, after which date the ground on which they are situated will be turned over to the

owner.
TERMS.—Ten per cent, of the purchase money to be paid in cash at the time of acceptance of bid; balance to be paid within five days.

Any additional information desired will be furnished by the undersigned.

F. J. CRILLY.

By), Col and A. Q. M. U. S. Army. CALE OF CONDEMNED SUBSISTENCE

OFFICE CHIEF COMMISSARY OF SUBSISTENCE.

DISTRICT INDIAN TEARITORY.
FORT GIRSON, C. N., June 11, 180.
At public auction, at Fort Gibson, Cherokee Na ion on the 18th day of July, 1865, at 8 o'clock, A. M., country of slating of:193 barrels of Flour.
500 pounds of Soda Crackers.

16 gallons Corumber Pickles 470 gallons Cabbage and Onion Pickles, 16: gallons Mixed Pickles.

350 galions Ontops.
Si5 galions hauer Kraut.
The above stores to be soid without reserve, to th thest b dder. Ferms- Cash, in Government funds, on day of sale specessful bidders to remove stores within y-four hours.

By order of Major General Sherican.

A. F. BOCK WET L.

Brevet Lieut Col A Q M. U S. A.,
Chief Q. M. and C. S. Dist. Ind. Ter.

CALE OF CONDEMNED QUARTERMAS

TER'S PROPERTY.

OFFICE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER,
DISTRICT OF THE INDIAN TERRITORY.
FORT GIBSON, C. N., June 11, 1888.

At Public Auction, at Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation consisting of Hospital and other Tents, Clothing, Biankets, Harness, Army Wegons, Wagon Covers, Co. king Utensils, Flags and numerous other articles, all to be sold without reserve to the highest binder.

Sale to take place at Fort Gibson, C. N., on the 18th. bidder.
Sale to take place at Fort Gibson, C. N., on the 15th
day of July, 1868 at 8 o'clock A. M.
Terms—Cash, in Government funds, to be paid on
day of sale.
Euccessin bidders to remove stores within twenty-

By order of Major-General Sheridan.

A. F. ROCKWELL,

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, A. Q. M., U. S. A.,

6 26 66 Chief Q. M., District Indian Territory,

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Fare, to cents between all points.

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mediate landinus, leaves Arch street wharf at 8 A,
and 2 P, b.; leaves Bristol at 10½ A. M. and 4½ P.
Mouday, July 6, 1 P.M Monday, July 6, 5 P
Tuesday, 7, 1½ P.M Tuesday, 7, 5½ F
Wed'day, 8, 1½ P.M Wed'day, 8, 5½ P
Thursday, 9, 2½ P.M Wed'day, 9, 6½ E
Friday, 10, 2½ P M Friday, 10, 6½ E
Fare to Trenton, so cents each way; intermedi
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